United Nations A/C.3/54/SR.2

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
7 April 2000
English
Original: French

Third Committee

Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 21 September 1999, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Galuška ..... (Czech Republic)

Contents

Statement by the Chairman

Election of officers

Organization of work

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

00-22452 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Statement by the Chairman

1. **The Chairman**, after paying tribute to his predecessor Mr. Hachani (Tunisia), said that, although it might not have the galvanizing effect of a major anniversary such as the previous year's commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child would provide an opportunity for the General Assembly to evaluate the effectiveness of that instrument in plenary meeting. The General Assembly would also consider in plenary meeting the follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons, 1999, which fittingly coincided with the end of the millennium.

Election of officers

2. **The Chairman**, inviting the Committee to elect three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur, said that the Group of African States, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Group of Western European and Other States had nominated Ms. Mesdoua (Algeria), Ms. Martínez (Ecuador) and Ms. Geelan (Denmark), respectively, for the offices of Vice-Chairman.

3. *Ms. Mesdoua (Algeria), Ms. Martínez (Ecuador) and Ms. Geelan (Denmark) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.*

4. **The Chairman** said that the Group of Asian States had nominated Mr. Al-Sudairy (Saudi Arabia) for the office of Rapporteur.

5. *Mr. Al-Sudairy (Saudi Arabia) was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.*

Organization of work (A/C.3/54/L.1; A/C.3/54/L.1/Add.1)

6. **The Chairman** drew attention to the action taken by the General Assembly on the recommendations contained in the report of the General Committee on the organization of the fifty-fourth session (A/54/250), on which the quality of the implementation of the Third Committee's programme of work depended.

7. The letter from the President of the General Assembly containing the list of agenda items allocated to the Committee would be issued in document A/C.3/54/1.

8. The General Assembly had decided to take up agenda items 37 (Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development) and 165 (Commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child) directly in plenary meeting.

9. In accordance with resolution 52/80, the General Assembly would devote four plenary meetings, on 4 and 5 October, to the follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons, 1999.

10. In response to the request from Austria, contained in document A/54/300, the General Committee had recommended that resolution 1999/13 of the Economic and Social Council on an optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

11. He emphasized that it was proposed that the Committee set a target date of 19 November for the conclusion of its work.

12. He would suspend the meeting to enable members of the Committee to meet informally to consider the programme of work and the status of preparation of documentation.

The meeting was suspended at 3.20 p.m. and resumed at 3.35 p.m.

13. **The Chairman** suggested that, in order to make optimum use of the resources available to it, the Committee should as far as possible adhere to its timetable of work. In particular, the main sponsors of draft resolutions requiring lengthy negotiations should draft them as soon as possible and deadlines should be scrupulously observed.

14. He also invited delegations wishing to submit proposals on matters requiring action by the Committee to inform the Secretary accordingly, so that she could make a list of such proposals for the benefit of all delegations wishing to offer their support and to be involved from the outset.

15. He took it that the Committee wished to adopt the proposed programme of work contained in document A/C.3/54/L.1.

16. *It was so decided.*

17. **The Chairman** said that he took it that the Committee agreed to a time limit of seven minutes for statements by individual delegations and Secretariat officials and 15 minutes for statements made on behalf of groups of delegations.

18. *It was so decided.*

19. **The Chairman** said that, in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, each delegation could make only two statements per agenda item in exercise of the right of reply, the first statement being limited to five minutes and the second to three minutes. Delegations should exercise their right of reply at the end of the day whenever two meetings had been scheduled for the same day and both meetings were devoted to consideration of the same item. Points of order should likewise be limited to five minutes.

20. Delegations should make sure that they had at least 20 copies of each statement which they planned to make, for the use by the interpreters, précis-writers and press officers. They were also requested to make their hand-written notes, however brief, available to the précis-writers to facilitate their task.

21. Delegations were requested to enter their names promptly on the speakers' list for all agenda items. They would make their statements at the scheduled meeting in the order in which they appeared on the list.

22. He took it that the Committee wished to invite the Special Rapporteurs and Representatives to present their reports to the Committee during the current session.

23. *It was so decided.*

24. **The Chairman** announced that, since the General Assembly had waived the quorum rule, meetings would begin promptly at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. To avoid disturbing speakers, delegations were asked to conduct their informal consultations outside the meeting room.

25. The Committee would begin its substantive consideration of the items on its agenda at 10 a.m., on Wednesday, 6 October, starting with item 106 (Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family).

26. He urged delegations wishing to take part in the general debate to enter their names on the speakers' list for the debate as soon as possible.

The meeting rose at 3.45 p.m.